

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The applicant's attorneys appreciate the Examiner's thorough search and remarks.

Claims 2-14 are new. Entry and consideration are requested.

Claim 1 has been rejected as anticipated by Hilmersson et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,704,509 ('509 patent). Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 1 calls for:

1. A multiple head induction sealing unit for sealing objects traveling in a predetermined workflow direction comprising:
 - at least two induction heads;
 - at least two ferrite cores, each core disposed in a respective head;
 - each ferrite core structured and arranged to form a channel-shaped core having a longitudinal channel, the longitudinal channel being perpendicular to the workflow direction;
 - at least one conductive coil disposed inside the longitudinal channel of each ferrite core structured and arranged to direct an electromagnetic field towards an object to be heated without making contact with the object.

It has been alleged that the '509 patent teaches the following:

Hilmersson et al shows an induction sealing unit for sealing objects 13 traveling in a predetermined workflow direction (as shown in Figure 3) comprising at least two ferrite cores (10 and 11 as shown in Figures 1-2), each ferrite core structured and arranged to form a channel-shaped core having a longitudinal channel 9 (as shown in Figure 2), the channel 9 is perpendicular to the workflow direction (as shown in Figure 3), and at least one induction coil or conductive coil 3 is disposed inside the longitudinal channel 9 and

structured and arranged to direct electromagnetic fields toward the object to be heated.

First, claim 1 calls for at least two heads. The '509 patent teaches a device with only a single head.

In addition, claim 1 calls for "at least two ferrite cores" each having a longitudinal channel.

However, the '509 patent only shows one core (not two cores), core 10. Elements 11 are insert portions which form core 10. See col. 3, lines 47-56.

Also, it has been stated that the '509 patent shows two longitudinal channels 9. However, the location referred to as longitudinal channels 9 is only a gap between core 10 and an insulating body 8. That is, there is a recess on the outside wall of core 10, which in combination with the insulating body forms a compartment for receiving conductors 3. There is no full channel formed in core 10 in which conductors 3 reside. Rather, it is clear that the '509 patent only shows one channel, channel 21, formed in core 10, and conductors 3 disposed outside of channel 21. Claim 1, however, calls for conductive coils to be disposed inside the channel.

In addition, as can be seen in Figure 3, and as described at col. 3, line 62 to col. 4, line 5, the apparatus shown by the '509 patent requires contact with the workpiece. Specifically, the workpiece is compressed between jaws 12, 14 which brings conductors 3 in direct contact with the workpiece.

However, claim 1 calls for the ferrite core "to direct" an electromagnetic field towards an object to be heated, without making contact with the same.

For the above reasons, claim 1 is distinguishable from the '509 patent, and therefore, not clearly anticipated. Reconsideration is requested.

Each of claims 2-14 depends from claim 1 and, therefore, includes its limitations. Each of these claims includes other limitations which in combination with those of claim 1 are not shown or suggested by the art of record.

For example, claim 2 calls for the conductive coils to be litz wire coils, and claim 4 calls for cooling the cores without using water; whereas, the device shown by the '509 patent requires water cooling. See col. 3, lines 39-43. Entry and consideration of claims 2-14 is requested.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited.

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